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**April 20, 2015**

## **Reallocation of Funds**

We will be offering a reallocation of funds to local agencies in the next couple of months. In the past we have simply provided reallocation across all agencies based on participation, and asked that any agencies that did not need the funds to voluntarily opt out.

As many agencies did not expend all of their funds last year, we are making this reallocation "opt in". Please email [Kate](#) and cc Leah Steinle ([lsteinle@mt.gov](mailto:lsteinle@mt.gov)) with the following information if you would like to have more funding for this current fiscal year:

- Are you able to fully expend all funds currently granted by September 30, 2015? (Yes or No)
- Are you able to utilize more funding by September 30, 2015 if available? (Yes or No)
- If yes, please provide a brief explanation of how these funds will be used and how much you anticipate needing. This is not a grant and does not have to be used for anything specifically (such as infrastructure); however, it does need to be used according to the same guidelines as your regular contract (staffing, educational materials, rent/utilities, training, etc.).

It is unknown at this time exactly how much we will have to reallocate; however, we will do our best to fulfill reasonable requests. Please contact Kate with any questions you may have. Please email these requests no later than May 1, 2015.

## **Local Agency Conference Call**

The next local agency conference call will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Please review the [draft agenda](#) and have pertinent staff participate on the call. We will be reviewing WIC fiscal topic (grants, how money can be spent, etc.) so please have someone on the call that is knowledgeable about your budget and expenditures (Coordinator, Director or fiscal staff).

**Reminder:** Local Agency Conference Calls are every other month, first Thursday, starting at 9 am. The schedule for the remainder of the year is August 6<sup>th</sup>, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Conference Call**

The next BPCP conference call is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2015, at 9:00 am. Please review the [draft agenda](#). If you have additional topics to discuss, please bring them to the call. The [draft minutes](#) for the February call are available, please review them and bring up any changes during the conference call or send them to [Chris](#).

## July 1, 2015 New Participant Booklet and Food List

The new food list is in the print process and will be shipped to you when it is ready. Because you will be printing July benefits, a [temporary July 1, 2015, food list](#) is available for you to print for participants. The posting is only the food list that will become effective on July 1<sup>st</sup> in a single page front and back version. The new [Participant Booklet](#) contains additional information and is available online.

## Over Issuance

Due to finishing March Over-Issuance quite late in the month, you will receive February's statement as well as the March and April report at the beginning of May. Thanks for continued understanding.

## Recall on Beechnut Baby Food

There is a recall on Beechnut 4 oz. stage 2 Classics sweet potato and chicken baby food. This is not WIC approved, however you may want to pass along this information to your participants. [Learn more.](#)

## Gold Lactation Keynote Presentation

**This week only**, you can watch the Gold Lactation's free web presentation by Kathleen Kendall-Tackett entitled "[Breastfeeding Helps Mothers Overcome the Legacy of Abuse and Adversity: It Makes All the Difference](#)". I watched it earlier, it was great. Submit the [Post – Article, Short Webinar and Teleconference Request for CE Credit Approval](#) for 1 WIC CEU.

## How WIC Impacts Nonparticipants

Earlier USDA research concluded that WIC participation directly impacts the health and nutrition of participants through improved diets (including increased iron density, fewer added sugars, and a greater variety of foods) and greater use of health care services. And an unintended benefit is that WIC can also indirectly impact the food choices, diet, and health of nonparticipants, through its effects on retail food stores and food manufacturers. A recent [USDA Amber Waves report](#) paints a more complete picture of some of the indirect effects of WIC. It is worth 0.5 WIC CEUs. Submit the "Post – Article, Short Webinar and Teleconference Request for Continuing Education Credit Approval" for credit.

## Wondering about IOM and Potatoes?

It was the Institute of Medicine (IOM) which researched and provided the scientific support for the WIC food packages created in 2009. The IOM is again looking at the research and Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) to determine if the WIC food packages need to be modified.

While the IOM is in its two-phase review process of the WIC food package, the recent [Letter Report](#) recommending inclusion of white potatoes as a WIC food choice has raised [questions about nutrition research](#) and IOM scientific recommendations. Why the change, having [recommended against white potatoes in 2005](#)? The answer is in the DGAs, which increased recommendations for starchy vegetables in their [2010 recommendations](#). The IOM WIC food package recommendations must align with the DGAs. With greater daily recommendations for intake of starchy vegetables, the data indicated that WIC participants' intakes were within the DGAs and allowing potatoes was no longer a concern. Read the [2010 recommendations](#) to find out why the 2010 DGAs recommend increased consumption of starchy vegetables.

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## FoodKeeper App

Want to help fight food waste? USDA's new [FoodKeeper app](#) is designed to help consumers by showing them how to store foods properly and reminding them to use items before they are likely to spoil. Product storage info, cooking tips and advice, and calendar integration are all part of the app, which ties into EPA's [Food Waste Challenge](#).

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